

AMEND ACTS ALLOWING PENSIONS TO WIDOWS.

[To accompany bill H. R. No. 133.]

MARCH 5, 1840.

Mr. TALIAFERRO, from the Committee on Revolutionary Pensions, made the following

REPORT:

The Committee on Revolutionary Pensions, to whom two resolutions of the House of Representatives were referred, on the 10th day of February, 1840, directing an inquiry to be made into the propriety of extending the provisions of the acts of July 4th, 1836, and of July 7th, 1838, allowing pensions to certain widows of deceased officers and soldiers of the revolution, so as to embrace the widows of such officers and soldiers as have died since the passage of the aforesaid acts; and further to amend the act of July 7th, 1838, so as not to exclude such widows from the benefit of that act as shall have married after the death of the husband for whose services they claim pensions, provided she be a widow at the time application for the benefit of said act is made; have had the resolutions aforesaid under consideration, and report:

The committee can perceive no reason why the widows of such officers and soldiers as have died *since* the passage of the above recited acts should not be allowed the benefit of those acts, in common with the widows of such as died prior to their passage. The pension allowed by those acts was in consideration of the service of the husband; he, therefore, who rendered the requisite service, whether he died prior or subsequent to the passage of the acts referred to, must leave his widow entitled to a pension, according to the spirit and intention of those acts; and that they are not in common provided for by their letter, the committee consider an unintentional omission.

The act of 7th of July, 1838, was so construed as to exclude from its provisions the widows who married after the death of the husbands on account of whose services such widows claimed pension. In order to remedy this, an act was passed 3d of March 1837, to amend the act of 1836, by which amendment it was provided that a second marriage should be no bar to the claim of a widow to a pension under the act of the 4th of July, 1836, she being a widow at the time she applies for it. No such provision is made in the act of the 7th of July, 1838. As the committee can perceive no reason why any distinction should be made between the widows claiming under these two acts, they therefore recommend that a second marriage shall not exclude a widow from the benefit of the act of the 7th of July, 1838, she being otherwise entitled thereto, and a widow when she applies for a pension. For the foregoing purposes a bill is reported.

Blair & Rives, printers.

AMEND ACTS ALLOWING PENSIONS TO WIDOWS

[To accompany bill H. R. No. 123]

MARCH 8, 1859

Mr. TALLAM, from the Committee on Revolutionary Pensions, made the following

REPORT:

The Committee on Revolutionary Pensions, to whom two resolutions of the House of Representatives were referred, on the 10th day of February, 1859, directing an inquiry to be made into the propriety of extending the provisions of the acts of July 14, 1838, and of July 14, 1855, allowing pensions to certain widows of deceased officers and soldiers of the revolution, so as to embrace the widows of such officers and soldiers as have died since the passage of the aforesaid acts; and further to extend the act of July 14, 1838, so as not to exclude such widows from the benefit of that act as shall have married after the death of the husband for whose services they claim pensions, provided she be a widow of the time application for the benefit of said act is made; have had the resolutions aforesaid under consideration, and report:

The committee can perceive no reason why the widows of such officers and soldiers as have died since the passage of the above recited acts should not be allowed the benefit of those acts, in common with the widows of such as died prior to their passage. The pension allowed by those acts was in consideration of the service of the husband; he therefore, who rendered the requisite service, whether he died prior or subsequent to the passage of the acts referred to, must leave his widow entitled to a pension, according to the spirit and intention of those acts; and that they are not in common provided for by their letter, the committee consider an unintentional omission.

The act of July 14, 1838, was so construed as to exclude from its provisions the widows who married after the death of the husbands on account of whose services such widows claimed pension. In order to remedy this, an act was passed 3d of March 1857, to amend the act of 1838, by which amendment it was provided that a second marriage should be no bar to the claim of a widow under the act of the 14th of July, 1838, she being a widow at the time she applied for it. No such provision is made in the act of the 14th of July, 1855. As the committee can perceive no reason why any distinction should be made between the widows claiming under these two acts, they therefore recommend that a second marriage shall not exclude a widow from the benefit of the act of the 14th of July, 1838, she being otherwise entitled thereto, and a widow when she applies for a pension. For the foregoing purposes a bill is reported.

JAMES A. HARRIS, printer.